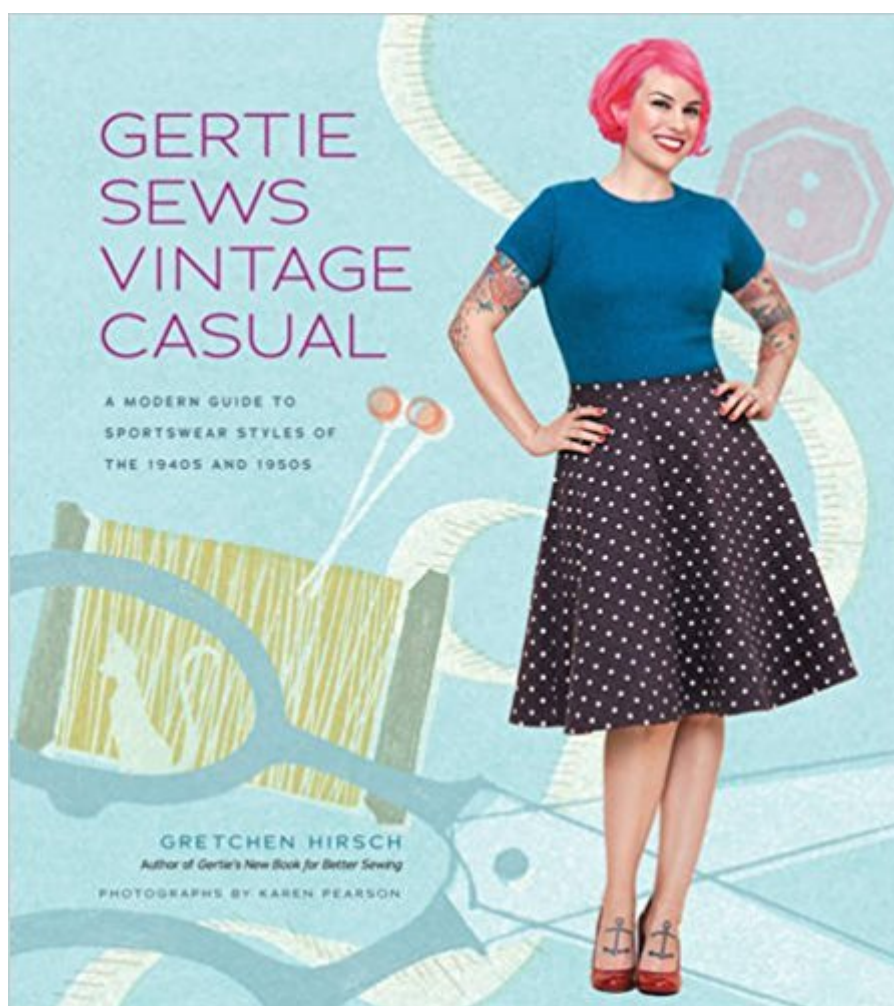


The book was found

Gertie Sews Vintage Casual: A Modern Guide To Sportswear Styles Of The 1940s And 1950s (Gertie's Sewing)



Synopsis

The mid-20th century was an amazing time for American women's fashion! Following the war, women started looking to American designers rather than French couture houses for inspiration and to demand clothing they could move in, even play in. In this follow-up to Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing, Gretchen Hirsch celebrates the classic casual styles that icons like Katharine Hepburn, Audrey Hepburn, and Rosie the Riveter made famous—think wide-legged trousers, fitted capri pants, beach rompers, shorts, knit tops, jeans, and day dresses. In Part I, Hirsch introduces key techniques for sportswear construction—from working with knit fabrics to the intricacies of pant-making—and in Part II, she showcases a 30-plus-piece vintage-inspired casual wardrobe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not just a guide to sewing clothes such as cigarette pants, flared skirts, wrap dresses, pinup sweaters, and shift dresses, Hirsch's volume explores the fashion landscape of the period as well as the particular challenges of sewing vintage. The book comes with basic patterns and instructions for multiple variations. (Library Journal) Complete with fun illustrations, great photography, and step-by-step directions, the author eases readers in with an illustrated fashion history primer and devotes five chapters to telling us everything we need to know to rock our

attempt to sew a vintage wardrobe. With thick paper patterns included in a bulging pack inside the back of cover, this book delivers a massive amount of value well worth the cover price. • (Grand Rapids Press)

Gretchen Hirsch is the author of *Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing* and creator of *Gertie's New Blog for Better Sewing*. She has a pattern line with Butterick and a fabric line with Fabric Traditions, and teaches sewing around the country and on PBS's *It's Sew Easy*, *Craftsy.com*, and *Creativebug.com*. Her work has been featured in *Sew Stylish*, *Vogue Patterns*, *Threads*, and *Stitch*, and on *jezebel.com*.

If you need to do any fitting or pattern adjustments I suggest using a different book in conjunction with this one. The adding width and pinching out the neckline instructions are high school beginner sewing, so if you are looking for how to fit these, you aren't going to find it here. That is the reason I'm giving the book 4 stars. Well, that and the photo's, all done against a blah background, and occasionally in downright ugly fabrics. The patterns are cute, and the instructions are for the most part clear. The writing style is fine, warm and easy to understand. The illustrations are clear enough, and sometimes quite nice. One of the real values of this book is seeing the variations on the patterns and seeing how they were handled. I always enjoy that and felt that yes, I did learn something from those parts of the book. I've heard a lot about sizing on these being unique. Gertie uses a different size number (10-12-14 etc) but these are still big 4 sizing for the most part. An 18 for example, is still a 46" bust and a 38" waist. The hip sizing seems a little generous but that is the style of the garments as well. There aren't any really new patterns here, there isn't anything you can't find somewhere else, but having them all together is a great value.

I just adore Gertie's blog and just about squealed out loud when the mailbox contained her book! This book does a great, I mean, GREAT job of explaining vintage casual techniques for both knits and wovens. There is a ton of information on fitting pants, fitting knits, and flat pattern adjustment as well as patternmaking techniques such as changing necklines, waistlines, pockets, collars, darts, etc. This is not a beginning book for someone who has no idea how to sew---there are plenty of those already on the market, so if you don't sew at all, don't expect to learn how to use your sewing machine. I would suggest Tilly's "Love At First Stitch" if you're a complete beginner and want to learn how to sew cute clothes using a pattern. The wardrobe is 10 included patterns on nice, thick paper---only part I dislike is they are printed on both sides so I have to trace. Hate that, but suck it

up, self! Sizing starts at a 32" bust all the way up to 46" (hips 36--50) The 10 patterns are 40's style blouse, flared skirt, knit sweetheart top, cigarette pants, easy knit pencil skirt (looks like a breeze!), pin-up sweater, shift dress, wrap dress (looks a little frumpy on the model, don't know if I'll make this one!), zip-front dress, and halter top (fitted with bust cups and side ruching, which I'm really excited to try!) EVERY SINGLE PATTERN has at least one variation, some with multiple variations, so you get a total of 35 patterns. For example, the Cigarette Pants have variations using patternmaking skills so that you can make a 40's style wide-leg pant, pedal pushers, flared shorts, sailor shorts, and jeans (which look like Freddie's of Pinewood jeans). The super cute halter top can be made as a romper if you attach the top to the previously mentioned shorts! (and, gracious, is it ever cute in the book!!!!) There are models of various sizes---nice to see real world people and, of course, lovely Gertie. I wish I could provide a review where I've made a few of the patterns, but I just got it today so that'll have to come. I just wanted to provide you with some additional information in case you were wondering whether you should get this book. I'm super excited to start sewing and make some sweet wardrobe basics, vintage-style! Okay, I HAVE MADE TWO THINGS! I made the sailor shorts which are awesome---in fact, I have made them about 5 times now since it's Texas here! I have also made the Halter Top with ruched sides, which is fantastic and I plan on making it again with better fabric. It was a bit big on me but I have a reallllly tiny top so I took it in on the sides about an inch. The bust cups I had to adjust as well since I'm an A cup, but I did a quick mock-up and it wasn't that difficult. Next time I will make sure I enclose the boning better since it pokes me in the sides! THREE THINGS NOW---the knit sweetheart top as well. Made it twice and it fits like a dream. Very cute and my first knit top.

Gertie does it again!! Her sense of wit, whimsy, & humour permeate every tip. She seems to really focus on packing in as much information as possible into her books, as if each book will be her last & she absolutely must impart all of her knowledge. I definitely don't get the feeling she's holding anything back in order to market a second volume, like I do with many other such books. I am a fan of her blog & on it she details being disappointed with the mediocre information about professional & couture techniques available to home sewers. She also details many of her book purchases, so I know her library overflows (much to her readers' benefit). I feel that Ms. Hirsch writes the book that she wished was available to her when she began sewing & what more could a reader ask for? I was doing a lot of research on which books would be best for learning techniques on working with knits, not knowing my time was being wasted, since Gertie had already completed & compiled them for me. Even if her modern/vintage aesthetic isn't to your liking, & you don't care for the (35! WOW!!!)

patterns, the wealth of information is truly staggering. Not to mention being well-thought-out, well-written, concise, & fun to read, as well as being beautifully illustrated or photographed. Thanks Gertie! I'll pre-order your books anytime!

the book is easy to follow and I get lots of compliments on the shorts I made...no one would have guessed they were homemade..I also made tow of the tops...I plan on making the shirt waist dress next. It is a good book but it is not for beginners, you need to already know how to sew, for the instructions are not always clear. This is not for the beginner sewer.

I actually enjoyed this more than her first book (although I really liked that one). It flowed well, and the wealth of information about techniques and the context of American sportswear was fascinating. The prose just felt a little easier--I would imagine that one's second book would be a little easier in some ways than the first, and I think that shows. The patterns are excellent. Although they are vintage-inspired, I can see most of the pieces being an effortless part of any modern wardrobe. Personally, I could do without the jumpsuit, but that's just a style preference. It's interesting for what it is. I like the styling and the fact there were a few different models. I also really appreciate that this book contained knit patterns and information for working with knits. This is not a book for an absolute novice sewer; it would be best suited for advanced/intrepid beginners and above. I cannot wait to make some of these pieces.

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